IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the SEVENTH full paragraph of specification page 6 with the following replacement paragraph:

Fig. 5A is a plot of the results of the normal equations that are solved in accordance with the echo suppression process of the present invention; and

Fig. 5B is a flowchart of the illustrative embodiment showing a method for suppressing echo.

Please replace the FIRST full paragraph of specification page 10 with the following replacement paragraph:

In accordance with the present invention, instead of populating the matrix with individual PCM samples, the energies that are already calculated are used to build a synthetic echo envelope rather than a synthetic echo (step 510).

Please replace the THIRD full paragraph of specification page 10 with the following replacement paragraph:

— In Fig. 5B, a ~~This~~ synthetic echo envelope is used to determine the delay and the gain of the echo signal (step 512). With this information, a very robust determination can be made of whether a signal is echo or true input speech. More specifically, the energy data for the samples over a 5 ~~microsecond~~ millisecond period are aggregated to form a frame of the aggregate energy value for that period (step 514). A matrix is then populated with these aggregate energy values. The normal equations are then solved. (step 516)- The aggregate energy values are then examined per frame (step 518), as shown in Fig. 5A. Each 5 msec energy frame 502 and 504, for example, represent the aggregate

energy value for that 5 msec time block. A peak aggregate result 506 is identified. In order to further refine this result, the present invention includes the additional step of smoothing the results by applying a moving average to the correlations and energies over each frame of data across the time dimension. This moving average thus provides a more accurate gain and delay prediction for the echo. With this gain and time delay information, each incoming energy aggregate frame is evaluated against the corresponding output energy at a determined time lag (step 520). If the input speech energy is determined to be less than the historical output energy scaled by the determined gain, then the signal is classified as echo.